

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 9, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Interview Record

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy and consideration extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during the telephone interview with Examiner Harold on August 9, 2005. No substantive issues were discussed during the interview, which was initiated by the undersigned in order to clarify the discrepancy with respect to Claims 2 and 4 – 6 in the Office Action. Examiner Harold explained during the interview that Claims 2 and 4 – 6 were in fact objected to, not rejected, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2 and 4 – 6 have been so rewritten. In addition, Claim 3 has been amended to change its dependency from Claim 1 to Claim 2. Remaining Claims 1 and 12 – 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Request for Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment will place the Application in better condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, L.L.P.

Dated: 8/9/05


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